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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Democratic Senators on Nicaragua

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1. At Senator Byrd's request, John Helgerson, Bob Vickers and I met today with sixteen (16) Democratic Senators to present a briefing on Nicaragua. Present were:

John D. Rockefeller, IV (D., WV)
 John F. Kerry (D., MA)
 Spark M. Matsunaga (D., HI)
 Gary Hart (D., CO)
 Jim Sasser (D., TN)
 Thomas F. Eagleton (D., MO)
 Bill Bradley (D., NJ)
 J. James Exon (D., NE)
 Dennis DeConcini (D., AZ)
 Claiborne Pell (D., RI)
 J. Bennett Johnston (D., LA)
 Russell B. Long (D., LA)
 Robert C. Byrd (D., WV)
 Edward M. Kennedy (D., MA)
 Others did not recognize (there were no name plates)

2. Kerry asked a question about human rights. Hart recounted his near miss at the Managua Airport and asked whether the contras were completely penetrated by the Sandinistas. Exon asked whether there ~~was~~ ^{there} better evidence than had been presented of Sandinista export of revolution. Pell asked whether the Sandinistas wouldn't win an election if there ~~was~~ ^{was} a fair one. Long supported the Administration within the context of East/West competition. Kennedy said the Contadora countries opposed the Reagan plan. DeConcini asked about contra staying power if they got additional funding.

3. The atmosphere was serious and cordial, though Hart's questions were sharply phrased.

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